(d) if so, by when such equipments would be installed in all the airports, with special reference to Mangalore Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to bad weather and poor visibility, flight operations are disrupted at times in monsoon and winter seasons. The extend of disruption varies from airport to airport depending on the weather conditions.

(c) and (d) Instrument Landing System (ILS) has already been provided requirement-wise at 38 airports including the four Metro airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata to cater to low visibility exigencies arising out of rain and fog. Action is underway to provide new ILS at Lilabari, Silchar, Kolkata, Gaya and replacement of existing ILS at Kolkata, Delhi and Cochin. At Mangalore airport, ILS has already been installed. Promulgation of the same is contingent on completion of flight trials, nominated check points, evaluation of letdown procedure and approval by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Enhancement of flying hours of pilots

86. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to increase the annual limit of 1000 flying hours for pilots;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that proposed move will be dangerous as it would put more stress on pilots; and

(d) if so, the final decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Air service between Bagdogra and Kathmandu

†87. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether any proposal to introduce air service between Bagdogra and Kathmandu is under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, the likelihood of the implementation of the said proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Agreement with US on Airport Modernisation

88. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the signing of an agreement between India and US to enable the Indian civil aviation bodies to get American assistance in modernising aviation infrastructure, technology and training;

(b) if so, whether any MOU was reached with US Federal Aviation Authority for developing and modernising airports and other infrastructure in managerial, operational and technical areas;

(c) if so, the details of the agreement;

(d) by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(e) whether US had already signed such agreement with more than 100 countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) After the agreement referred to in part (a) of the Question has been formally signed, the respective implementing authorities namely Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India etc. would be entering into specific technical assistance agreement with Federal Aviation Authority of US according to their requrements in respect of areas under their respective jurisdiction.

(e) Yes, Sir.